

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Process for the preparation of 2-methyl-2-hepten-6-one which comprises reacting 2- methyl-3-buten-2-ol with isopropenyl methyl ether in the presence of hydrogen tris(oxalato)phosphate or hydrogen bis(oxalato)borate.

2. (original) A process as in claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of hydrogen tris(oxalato)phosphate.

3. (currently amended) A process as in ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out under elevated pressure.

4. (original) A process as in claim 3 wherein the reaction is carried out at 10^5 to 20×10^5 Pa.

5. (original) A process as in claim 3 wherein the reaction is carried out at 5×10^5 to about 15×10^5 Pa.

6. (currently amended) A process as in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein the catalyst is present in an amount to provide a substrate/catalyst ratio of about 1000:1 to about 100:1, based on 2-methyl-3- buten-2-ol as the substrate.

7. (currently amended) A process as in ~~claims 1 or 4~~ claim 1 wherein the catalyst is present in amount to provide a substrate/catalyst ratio of about 900: 1 to about 300:1, based on 2-methyl-3-buten-2-ol as the substrate.

8. (currently amended) A process as in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of 2-methyl-3-buten-2-ol to isopropenyl methyl ether is 1:1 to 1:3.

9. (currently amended) A process as in ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of 2-methyl-3-buten-2-ol to isopropenyl methyl ether is 1:1 to 1:2.5.

10. (currently amended) A process as in ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 wherein the reaction is carried out in continuous mode.